DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 059 737 LI 003 476

AUTHOR Shepard, Marietta Daniels
TITLE The Organization of American States and its Potential for Collaboration in the Improvement of Scientific Documentation in Latin America.
INSTITUTION Organization of American States, Washington, D.C. Library Development Program.
PUB DATE Aug 70
NOTE 29p.; (6 References); Cuadernos Bibliotecholgicos 53)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS *Developing Nations; *Documentation; Foreign Countries; Information Dissemination; *Information Needs; *Information Services; International Programs; National Programs; *Sciences
IDENTIFIERS *Latin America; Scientific and Technical Information

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to describe the profound changes which have been made in the organic structure of the Organization of American States (OAS) and in its operations in recent months and how these changes lend themselves to more effective efforts to aid the member states in the development of more adequate documentation services and in cooperative efforts for regional activities. The changes are specifically related to: (1) the ratification of the "Protocol of Buenos Aires" which revised the Charter of the Organization; (2) the effects of the Alliance for Progress in national planning; (3) the provision of special funds for education and science and (4) the reorganization of the Secretariat and the reorientation of its programs and activities. (Author/NH)

ED 059737

CUADERNOS BIBLIOTECOLOGICOS

No. 53 (English)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATION IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION IN LATIN AMERICA

by

Marietta Daniels Shepard
Chief,
Library Development Program

1970

SECRETARIA GENERAL
ORGANIZACION DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS
Washington, D.C.

LI 003 476

ED 022121

Originally written for the 35th Conference and International Congress of the International Federation for Documentation (FID), Buenos Aires, Sept. 14-24, 1970.

UP/0.2
II/III.53 (English)
August 1970

Original: English
Limited distribution

This series is prepared by the Library Development Program, General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, Washington, D.C. 20006.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATION IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION IN LATIN AMERICA

by

MARIETTA DANIELS SHEPARD
Chief, Library Development
Program
Organization of American States

Introduction

Latin America, like others of the underdeveloped areas of the world, has given relatively little attention up to the present time to the use of scientific documentation, to the development of documentation centers, or to national programs of scientific information in support of scientific research, technological development, or technological transfer. The root of the problem is that the area has always lacked even a minimum of libraries which are necessary for its development and for its continued progress, and one which national programs of scientific information services can be built. The situation has worsened as a result of the rapid progress made by the developed countries and its accompanying wealth of knowledge. As a result, both the work done in scientific research in Latin America as well as in technical studies has been affected by the lack of adequate documentation at the national and international levels.

Recent years have brought with them, nonetheless, considerable progress in certain countries of Latin America in their attempts to provide scientific information services at the national level. In the lead at the present time are Brazil and Argentina, especially through the Brazilian Institute of Bibliography and Documentation (IBBD) of its National Research Council, and Argentine's Center of Scientific Documentation of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research.

High levels of activity and achievement were reached several years ago in national scientific documentation services but were dissipated and lost in the closing of the Centro de Documentación Científica y Técnica de México, created with the assistance of UNESCO to serve as a regional center. Nothing has risen to takes its place for regional purposes nor in Mexico for national purposes. Two other countries, Chile with its National Center of Information and Documentation (CENID), and Venezuela with the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research (IVIC), are beginning to organize themselves efficiently. There is still another group consisting of Colombia, Bolivia and Paraguay, which have begun to show a decided interest in documentation. Activities in 1970 in Colombia are described in a later portion of this paper.

On a regional basis two of the specialized organizations of the Organization of American States have been active: the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and the Pan American Health Organization, whose programs are described in succeeding paragraphs.

The training of librarians with some knowledge of documentation has been achieved through the regular courses as well as special semester-long courses for medical and agricultural librarians at the Inter-American Library School (EIBM) of the University of Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia, in in-serviece training courses for agricultural librarians at Turrialba, and in special documentation courses at IBBD in Rio de Janeiro.

The General Secretariat of the OAS, within the limits of its budget, has attempted to stimulate the development of national and regional cooperative programs of scientific documentation, as well as documentation services in all fields through both its Department of Scientific Affairs and its Library Development Program. Among the specific activities which should be mentioned are the series of workshops organized by the OAS in various countries of Latin America on scientific documentation and the use of reference materials, and the compilation and publication of Guide to Scientific and Technical Journals (1962). In addition to the many activities of the Library Development Program in support of the many phases of library development in Latin America, it has sought to stimulate the use by the Member states of the Technical Assistance Program of the OAS for assistance in the creation of national documentation centers, and of the OAS Fellowship Program for the advanced training of documentalists.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the profund changes which have been made in the organic structure of the OAS and in its operations in recent months and how these changes lend themselves to more effective efforts to aid the member states in the development of more adequate documentation services and in cooperative efforts for regional activities.* The changes are specifically related to: 1) the ratification of the "Protocol of Buenos Aires" which revised the Charter of the Organization; 2) the effects of the Alliance for Progress in national planning; 3) the provision of special funds for education and science; and 4) the reorganization of the Secretariat and the reorientation of its programs and activities.

*Portions of the following sections are taken from the "SALALM Progress Report: 1970" issued as a working paper of the XV Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials held at the University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, June 1970.

I. The Restructured Organization of American States

I.1. The Organization of American States and its Amended Charter

The first major reorganization of the Organization of American States since its creation in 1948 has taken place from the organic, administrative, and program points of view during recent months. From the organic aspect, a ceremony on February 27, 1970, celebrated the ratification of the "Protocol of Buenos Aires," by the deposit of instruments of ratification by Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras, Jamaica and Peru, which brought to 18 the number states which ratified the amended Charter of the OAS, thereby surpassing the two-third majority requirements of the 24-member organization.

The amended Charter was designed especially to meet the changing economic developments in the hemisphere as compared with the 1948 Charter geared essentially to the juridical and political aspects of the inter-American organization.

Some of the most important amendments deal with educational, scientific and cultural goals as well as economic and social ones, leaving 47 of the 112 articles of the original charter unchanged but increasing the total number to 150 articles.

The functions of the Inter-American Conference which previously was scheduled to meet every five years will be taken over by the General Assembly to meet annually at mid-year. The General Assembly will have the key function of coordinating and integrating the work of all of the organs of the OAS. Functioning directly under the General Assembly will be three councils of equal rank-- The Permanent Council, replacing the present OAS Council, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, and the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture, formerly the Inter-American Cultural Council.

The Permanent Council will assume many of the responsibilities of the former Council of the OAS with the exception of those attributed to the General Assembly, and will act as a Preparatory Commission for the General Assembly.

The Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress (CIAP) serves as a permanent executive committee for the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES) and a Permanent Executive Committee (CEPCIECC) serves the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture (CIECC).

I.1. (cont.)
An Extraordinary Meeting of the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture, April 6-11, 1970, converted the former Inter-American Cultural Council into the new body with increased responsibility for developing and approving programs and draft budgets which will in turn be coordinated by the Permanent Council with those in other areas of the General Secretariat.

The General Secretariat, as central and permanent organ, will facilitate this process of coordination as it carries out the directives and assignments of the organs and prepares the proposed program-budget which goes into effect with the final review by the General Assembly. The term "Pan American Union" which has served as the General Secretariat of the OAS is not mentioned in the amended Charter.

I.2. Reorganization of the General Secretariat

An administrative reorganization of the General Secretariat of the OAS was initiated in late 1960 upon the approval by the former Council of the OAS of the recommendations of a Group of Experts in Administration and Public Finance. In addtion to the Secretary General, the Organization now has an Assistant Secretary General and three Assistant Secretaries, one for Economic and Social Affairs, one for Education, Science and Culture, and one for Management. An Administrator for Technical Cooperation carries out the technical assistance and training programs of the OAS, with the technical advice of the substantive departments which function under the two first mentioned Assistant Secretaries.

The Columbus Memorial Library was transferred to a new Office of Publications and Documents under Management Services, whereas the Library Development Program remained in the Department of Cultural Affairs, as a "technical unit."

I.3. Regular and Specialized Activities of the OAS and Special Funds

With the acceptance by the OAS of the principles and goals of the Alliance for Progress, special funds for expanding activities in the economic and social fields were added to the regular budget of the OAS in these fields. One of the effects of the program has been the creation in each of the countries of Latin America of a top-level national planning office. An annual report is made each year of the results in each country of efforts made in these fields of national development which serves as a basis for outside financial and technical assistance needed for the forthcoming year.

The need for similar special funds for educational and scientific development was the topic of a meeting of the Presidents of the American Republics at Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 1967, who suggested the annual voluntary contribution by member states of some $25 million annually, $10 million for a Regional Program of Educational Development and $15 million for a Regional Program for Scientific and Technological Development. The 1968 and 1969 meetings of the Inter-American Cultural Council set forth the types of activities to be carried out with the Special Multinational Funds (now called FEMCIECC) especially through multinational projects, "acciones de refuerzo", basic studies, and technical meetings.

I.4. Reorientation of the Programs and Activities of the OAS

Upon assuming the position of Secretary General of the OAS, Mr. Galo Plaza in 1968 visited the member states to discuss with their executives and other top-level officials how to OAS could become more useful to the countries of Latin America. Conclusions emanating from these discussions led the Secretary General to put into motion a procedure to vitalize the Organization and to make of it a decisive and efficient instrument for development and progress which would better respond to the desires and needs of the member states.

A careful study was made of the "mandatos" or resolutions of Inter-American conferences calling for specific activities on the part of the OAS, each program being carried on and each procedure being used to carry out the programs. The basic principle of the review was to find the means of avoiding a dispersion of resources and a proliferation of activities, and at the same time to concentrate the efforts of the OAS in order to achieve maximum results.

In order to accomplish this, the Secretary General furthermore selected sixteen "areas of concentration" for the development of new programs for the concentration of efforts of the General Secretariat. Each program is oriented principally toward providing direct assistance to the governments, preferably through technical assistance and training programs to strengthen institutions of Latin America. The program of Technical Cooperation places in the hands of each member state the principal responsibility for making decisions concerning the assistance it wishes to have, and the fields in which it wishes to have it. All requests for technical assistance and for fellowships will be made to the OAS through the national planning office for the purposes of improved planning and coordination in relation to needs of the country. This applies to the regular programs of the Organization as well as to the special programs such as the Regional Programs for Educational Development and Scientific and Technological Development, if the individual member state so wishes and states that the requests are for assistance from the Special Multinational Funds (FEMCIECC).

The internal administration of the General Secretariat was strengthened so as to permit a regular reporting to each country of what funds and programs are available to them and how they are being expended for short term and long term projects, to permit them to be aware of the effects of the decisions they take in the expenditure of the funds and to evaluate the results of the programs carried out in their countries with OAS assistance.

Furthermore, the new plan of operations has led to the restructuring of each substantive department to permit maximum importance and flexibility to the programs selected as areas for the concentration of efforts. Included in the restructuring of the General Secretariat to give support to the multinational and national programs was the creation of regional offices of the OAS in Mexico City for Mexico and the Caribbean; in Guatemala for Central America and Panama; in Rio de Janeiro for Brazil and Paraguay; in Buenos Aires, for Argentina and Uruguay; and in Lima for Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. These regional offices are in addition to the OAS offices which function in each of the member states.

I.4. (cont.)

Planning for the conversion to the new internal structure of the General Secretariat and of its activities was carried out first by an analysis of the current situation both quantitative and qualitative in each of the sixteen fields selected as areas of concentration and a determination of the goals to be achieved on a long-term basis. A six-year operational plan then developed for each field, together with a two-year program and budget for all the OAS activities carried out by the General Scretariat (exclusive of its specialized organizations such as the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and the Pan American Health Organization) were submitted to the OAS Council in December 1969 by the Secretary General. The Consolidated Proposed Programs and Budget of the General Secretariat, Biennium 1970/72, with Projections of Activities and Expenditures for 1972/76, in three volumes, consolidated all of the anticipated sources of funds including the voluntary contributions to the FEMCIECC funds, although these have not approached the $25 million first proposed.

While the Council of the OAS studied the total program, the two specialized councils CIES and [illegible] through their respective permanent executive committees and special meetings, reviewed the proposals for the expenditure of both the regular and the specialized funds for activities in their areas of competence. The now Permanent Council, acting as a Preparatory Committee, will coordinate the programs and proposed budgets approved by the specialized councils, attempt to reconcile the proposed programs and budgets with actual funds available from both voluntary and assessed sources, make final budget allocations, and send it along to the General Assembly whose budgetary role consists chiefly of giving its stamp of approval to the budget as approved by the Preparatory Committee.

Reflected in the six-year work program and biennial budget proposed are the programs of technical assistance and training carried out by the OAS in behalf of other governments such as those of the European countries and Japan. Funds from the budget, for instance, provide for the payment of travel costs for fellowships given by those countries for specialized training useful in the development of Latin America.

The six-year proposed program with proposed biennial budgets as submitted by the Secretary General is an unprecedented document in the administration of international organizations, although some organizations such as UNESCO operate on a two-year budget. The Council, upon receiving it, agreed to the principle but called for an annual review of the precise budget for the following year in accordance with the individual legal basis for contributions to the OAS from its member states.

I.5. Objectives of the New Orientation

The fundamental objective of the OAS in reorienting its activities is to give maximum support to the strengthening of the key institutions of Latin America so as to accelerate the development of the member states and of the region. The reduction of the number of activities of the General Secretariat is aimed at concentrating efforts and improving the quality of those carried out. Another objective proposed by the Secretary General to the member states would be the elimination of duplication of efforts and activities of international organizations offering assistance in the region.

I.5. (cont.)

To strengthen the institutions of the Latin American nations to enable them to move more quickly in assuming responsibility for the development of their countries and of the region, technical assistance will be provided in the form of outside experts for short and longer periods of time as well as training facilities for personnel of the institutions. In the field of education, science, and culture, therefore, some 39 percent of the budget will go toward technical assistance and 23 percent for training programs. The major areas of concentration in education are in educational planning and administration, improvement in curriculum and teaching materials, and in the application of educational technology, and in the development of national systems of school and university libraries and centralized services for them.

Key institutions of Latin America will also be used as the principal elements in carrying out "multinational projects" in the areas of concentration and for national activities related to the multinational projects. Both the member states and the Secretariat may take the initiative in the selection of the institutions themselves to be used as the bases for multinational projects.

The resulting web of programs, fields of concentration, persons and institutions, and activities is woven as a means of developing the human resources needed by Latin America for an accelerated rate of development.

I.6. Reorientation of Procedure of Technical Cooperation

After some twenty years of technical cooperation programs carried on by many international organizations and by governments it has become clear that no systematic and unified plan was being followed by the member states and that no attempt had been made to interrelate the various technical cooperation programs and projects. In order to make maximum use of the resources available to the OAS, the Administration of Technical Cooperation has been reorganized so as to apply uniform systems of control to all the technical assistance and fellowship programs, while seeking to achieve maximum flexibility with respect to the independence of the source of funds.

By 1970 a new procedure for receiving and approving requests for assistance from the member states was put into effect. Proposals are now made on the basis of "projects" and the preliminary selection of candidates for fellowships is being done in each of the countries by its national planning office. When necessary, the OAS will provide technical assistance in t e formulation of national plans in all aspects of national life. The first of the national programs for technical assistance have been formulated by member states and put into execution by the OAS. It is anticipated that this procedure will aid other international organizations, foundations, and governments in more effective planning for technical and financial assistance.

Member states, teherefore, will have the responsibility for planning and coordinating the activities in their countries under the OAS technical assistance and fellowship programs as a function of new National Programs of Technical Cooperation (PNCT). National institutions will develop projects which they need for improvement and submit them to the national planning office which in turn will select those which it wishes to submit in order of priority.

I.C. (cont.)

For the purpose of aiding the member states, the General Scretariat has prepared standard instructions and information concerning regional programs available for all countries and a special one for each country, indicating the assignments which have been made to them for their participation in the OAS programs in terms of man-hours of technical assistance and the number and kind of fellowships to which they are entitled, as well as a calculation of dollar value of the assignments. This procedure permits each country to determine its specific interests in the program and services offered and to set its own priorities for assistance from the OAS. It will permit the Organization to determine the degree to which the member states wish to take advantage of the programs of the OAS and the fields in which altogether they are the most interested. It will permit a systematic evaluation of activities and services of the OAS and an examination of their results in respect to predetermined criteria. A review of the areas of concentration will be made prior to the preparation of the second biennial budget.

An annual letter will be sent to each country from the Secretary General specifying the precise areas in which the Secretariat is prepared to render assistance. An annual coordinated request will be sent by each national planning office to the OAS indicating the priority areas in which it desires technical assistance selected from among the areas delineated by the OAS.

It is to be expected that the country requests will clearly influence the process of the Secretariat program formulation although decisions concerning programs are made by the governing bodies of the OAS, e.g. the technical councils mentioned earlier. Specific country priorities as defined in their national programs, will weigh heavily in the judgment leading to the selection of major areas for future programming.

1.7. The New Regional Programs for Educational Development and for Scientific and Technological Development

As stated previously, use is made of the Special Funds for education and for science and technology for projects submitted by the different member states as multinational projects, "acciones de refuerzo", basic studies, and technical meetings. Certain areas of special interest have been established within the two regional programs for top priority consideration in reviewing the proposals submitted. In each country a special agency has been indicated as the organ through which projects in the scientific and technological fields are to be submitted to the Department of Scientific Affairs. (The Ministry of Education is the agency in the education field.)

Proposals are then evaluated by the staff of the OAS and presented to the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (CICYT) (or in the case of educational projects, to the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE ,reviewed by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture (CEPCIECC), and ultimately by CIECC itself. The nature, number, and extent of the project are studied in accordance with certain priorities and procedures and controlled by the level of the contributions of the member states to the Special Funds. For projects to be considered for FED'CIECC, the country submitting them must have contributed a minimum of 25% of its quota to the Special Funds.

Technical assistance will be granted to the member states for their country programs especially for such purposes as planning, advising on long-term programs, and for teaching special subjects as a means of strengthening the country's institutions. Courses taught in institutions serving as the basis for multinational projects will be used for training of specialists from other countries, and fellowships provided for their study. Assistance provided to these institutions may also include teaching materials and laboratory equipment for teaching and research. As "acciones de refuerzo" assistance may also be given to national institutions to back up multinational projects.

I.8. Fellowships of the OAS

Although most of the fellowships granted by the OAS in its regular program and budget will continue to be given for advanced and specialized study, now in relationship to the specific areas of concentration of the OAS, a percentage of the fellowships remains uncommitted and subject to the characteristics of the candidates rather than exclusively to the specified fields. However, in respect to the multinational projects of the Regional Programs of Educational and Scientific and Technological Development, additional fellowships are offered as an integral part of the concept of the multinational projects. Many of the countries of Europe also offer specialized courses and provide fellowships for Latin American students. The OAS makes a specified number of travel grants available for these students under a program of PEC fellowships (Programa Especial de Capacitación). The length of the fellowships varies with the progra-

II. Library and Documentation Activities of the General Secretariat

II.1. The Library Development Program

II.1.1 **Library Development Program: Regional Program for School and University Libraries**

In the past, the Library Development Program was aimed at resolving problems which were common to all libraries: to the publication of the manuals and other publications needed for the organization of libraries, the teaching of library science, and keeping the library profession and educational authorities aware of new worldwide activities and movements related to books and libraries: to technical assistance to institutions in member states of the OAS in respect to their library problems: to improving the bibliography and booktrade of the Americas: and to the training of personnel of libraries and documentation centers.

Limited personnel and resources prevented the stimulation of technical assistance to the institutions and member states, nonetheless, and made it impossible to carry out certain activities and projects necessary to facilitate the development of improved library services. Support for the Seminars on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials was justified, not only on the basis of helping research institutions to acquire publications they need from Latin America, but to carry out cooperative activities that increase bibliographical information and produce more information on the booktrade in the Americas. The Seminars also provide a forum for the discussion of the book and library problems common to all libraries needing materials in Spanish and Portuguese. Support for Project LEER, to select and evaluate easy to read materials in Spanish for children and adults for school and public libraries in the U.S., is equally advantageous for Latin American libraries and schools.

Advisory support to the Inter-American Library School at the University of Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia, has been high on the list of priorities, complementing the financial support given by Rockefeller Foundation over a 10-year period.

In the coming biennium, the amount of technical assistance to the member states will be increased as a result of the new orientation of the OAS, especially in respect to national planning for library and documentation services. The training of those who will be responsible for various aspects and phases of national planning and of library school teachers will have top priority in the fellowship program. Institution-building, of course, will require both technical assistance and training programs. For maximum results and the most productive use of minimum resources, whether human, financial, or bibliographical, the centralization of common services will be required, as well as the development of national and regional systems of school and public libraries and of systems or consortia of university and specialized libraries. Only one country of Latin America has even an incomplete cooperating cataloging service. In every library of every other country and in most of the libraries of that country, the same title will be cataloged as many times as there are copies in the libraries, most of them without benefit of access to LC cataloging or other aids.

---

* Análisis de la situación bibliotecaria en América Latina. Washington, D.C., Secretaría General, Organización de los Estados Americanos, 1970. 1?r. (Cuadernos bibliotecológicos, no. 52) (Also in English)

(I.1.1 cont.)

Because of the lack of centralized services for selection, procurement, processing, bibliographic compilation, inter-library loan, the scarcity of professional literature on libraries in the languages of Latin America, research into the library needs of each country and of the area as a whole, every library operated on its own, in an isolated fashion. The teaching of librarianship was aimed principally at the internal organization of a library whose collection was built up chiefly by gift and exchange and not in response to the needs of the community it was to serve. The need for the development of means to unify all the libraries of one country and of the region for the purpose of utilizing all resources to the best of their ability calls for a reorientation of thinking at the local as well as at the international level. If development is to be accelerated, the library support for such development must be accelerated proportionately. Both the technical assistance and the training programs are aimed at increasing inter-library activities, and centralized support and coordination of services at the highest level.

At the same time, a number of studies are needed for planning purposes. In the next two years study missions will be sent to Latin America to evaluate existing library schools and to study the application of three book classifications in selected Latin American libraries of both a general and a specialized nature. A study will be made by secretariat personnel of school libraries and of state of the planning, support, administration, and supervision of them at a national, state, or regional level, looking forward to a model system.

With the termination of the Rockefeller Foundation funds for the Inter-American Library School in Medellín, necessary for the basic training of librarians for countries which cannot sustain their own schools and for advanced and specialized training of others, for research into training needs and programs, and for the production of teaching materials in librarianship, it is anticipated that support will come from the OAS within the Regional Program for School and University Library Development of the special funds for educational and scientific development. Support will be for library science professors to maintain the school for international purposes, for library materials and equipment, and for scholarships for the study of school and university libraries. A graduate level course in the centralization and management of university libraries and of university library systems is being planned for the second year, 1971-72. The amount which will be available will depend on the voluntary contributions from the member states to the special funds.

Fellowship for graduate level study of librarianship and information services will be available for study in the United States, Puerto Rico, and in library schools offering such advanced study at this level. Priority will be given to teachers of librarianship, to those responsible for creating and administering national programs and networks for various kinds of libraries and documentation services, and to those responsible for creating and maintaining centralized supportive services.

II.1.2. National Planning and Programming for the Development of Library and Documentation Services

Library development was selected as one of the areas of concentration of the OAS for the forthcoming biennium, with emphasis on school and university libraries. Furthermore, activities of the new Regional Program for Scientific and Technological Development include support for scientific and technical research as provisional areas of concentration of the OAS.

In addition to the regular activities of the OAS in library development including the gathering and dissemination of information, therefore, a new Regional Program for the Development of School and University Libraries has been approved by the Extraordinary (or preliminary) Meeting of the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture held in April 1970, for FEMCIECC funds. Final approval will, of course, be required by the Permanent Council as Preparatory Commission for the General Assembly, at the time it coordinates the program and budget of the programs of education, science, and culture, with others of the OAS and adjusts the budget in accordance with all the programs and all the receipts and pledges for regular and special voluntary funds.

In planning for the proposed six-year work program and biennial budget for library development, the same procedures described above were followed. An analysis of the situation revealed the need for support to the institutions giving training for librarians and documentalists as well as for technical assistance to the member states for the purposes of devising national plans for library and documentation services.

From the quantitative point of view it was estimated that more than 35,000 librarians are needed for primary and secondary school libraries calculated on the basis of one librarian for each 1,000 students; on the basis of one librarian for each secondary school, 26,513 librarians are needed; and on the basis of one teacher-librarian for each primary school, some 270,996 professionals are now needed. As an example of the seriousness of the problem, it was estimated that in Brazil in 1967 only a few more than 1,000 students were registered in library schools, with 290 students in the third and last year of study, providing for only 3 percent of the country's professional needs.

From the qualitative point of view little is known of the characteristics of existing library schools. Perhaps some 4 schools could be considered capable of moving upward to a post-graduate level, 4 or 6 could offer the two levels of

II.1.3. (cont.)

training, and 4 others of the 39 now in existence could offer some post-graduate training, if visiting professors and other assistance is given to them.

In order to achieve maximum benefit from the human, bibliographic, and financial resources available to libraries in Latin America, it is considered that attention must be given to national planning by the national government, to coordination at the national level to the development of the national systems or networks of school and university libraries, and scientific documentation services, and to the provision at a national level of centralized services to benefit all libraries. This implies devoting more atention to programs of benefit to many libraries rather than to the internal organization of individual libraries.

On the basis of the analysis summarized above, a calculation was made of the needs which could be met by assistance from the OAS. Priorities were established for possible funding as a part of the budget planning of the OAS. A six-year work program and biennial budget for library development was then planned with a view toward initiating a program of direct assistance to improve more rapidly the library services of Latin America, and to gather information on which to judge more effectively the means of accelerating the process still more.

II.1.3. Technical Assistance Mission to Colombia for the Development of A Unified National Plan for Library and Documentation Services (A Pilot Project)

Because of its level of library development as well as for its effective educational structure, Colombia was considered by the OAS to be an appropriate country to serve as a pilot project for national unified library planning. Effective collaboration was taking place between educational authorities and agencies and those responsible for scientific planning and the planning for scientific documentation services.

The following summary of the procedures followed in providing technical assistance to Colombia for the development of an overall national plan for library and documentation services, and the problems and elements encountered along the way is given for the purpose of providing information which other countries may find relevant in their efforts toward national planning. It may also serve to demonstrate the unalterable fact that scientific documentation services to be effective will depend on a broadly based network of libraries of all kinds operating in a coordinating fashion and interrelated in their efforts to supply information, materials, and services.

II.1.3. (cont.)

National planning for university library services began with the naming of librarians to a Grupo de Estudio by the Asociación Colombiana de Universidades, and the production by them of a 5-year plan for university library development, issued in 1967. In early July 1969, a meeting of Colombian university librarians met in Bucaramanga to discuss the plan, including union catalogs and lists among other activities.

With the assistance of the American Library Association and the Agency for International Development, national planning for library services in Colombia as a pilot project was speeded up in 1969/70 by the efforts of the OAS. Recent structural changes in the Ministry of Education facilitated rapid library development in that country, it was felt. A meeting was held in Bogotá in July 1969 with directors and representatives of a number of the "independent agencies" responsible for the development of different kinds of library services, with the participation of ALA and OAS representatives. On the basis of their conclusions, a subsequent meeting of librarian produced a proposal to the OAS for technical assistance funds to help in developing a national plan and subsequently a program. From their comprehensive review of needs, the Minister of Education set certain priorities for immediate technical assistance.

The proposal prepared by the group working in September 1969, together with the priorities set by the Minister of Education, were submitted to the National Planning Office, and subsequently to the OAS for technical assistance during 1969/70.

After consideration by the Technical Cooperation Administration of the OAS, within the limitation of funds, and after approval by the Library Development Program of the satisfactory professional orientation of the request, the Government of Colombia was informed that its request for technical assistance was to be satisfied by a 3-man mission from the OAS, and the negotiations began for the contracting of personnel for the team.

II.1.3. (cont.)

It was planned that the leader of the team would spend 3-months in Colombia, one month working with Colombian counterparts to assemble necessary information and to arrange for desirable interviews and discussions. During the second month he would serve as Chief of Mission, with two other librarians to work with him and their Colombian counterparts. He would remain for a third month to tie up the loose ends and prepare the report and plan based on the recommendations of the mission.

The newly created Instituto Colombiano para el Fomento de la Educación Superior (ICFES) was selected as the provisional coordinator for all library planning at the national level. However, another new agency for promoting scientific research, the Fondo Colombiano para Investigaciones Científicas (COLCIENCIAS), began early to concern itself with planning on a national basis for scientific documentation services. (See below, II.2.1.) Its effectiveness would be based to a great extent on the effectiveness of the planning for university and specialized libraries.

It was anticipated that during the third week of the month in which all three members of the team would be working together, attention would be given to the incorporation of scientific documentation services into the over-all national plan. An in-depth study done by a team supported by Rockefeller Foundation in late 1969 and early 1970 of agricultural library services in Colombia would facilitate planning for the integration of all library and documentation services, together with a survey of medical libraries done by Mrs. Byrd Elguera, Assistant Librarian of the medical library of Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

It was hoped that the team would be together during the month of May in Colombia, after the elections in April, and before the new administration would take over in August. Provision was made both in the request from Colombia and in the planning by the OAS for additional technical assistance on a longer-term basis to develop the coordinating offices and services after the planning was done, as a second phase of the program. AID was to supply additional experts for certain aspects of the national program also at a later date.

A request was sent to ICFES by the OAS to name the Colombian counterparts who were to work with the mission, and a memorandum prepared concerning certain types of information and documentation to be assembled by them before the arrival of the Chief of the Mission. Although the OAS was informed of those who were to serve as counterparts to the mission, by an unfortunate oversight, these people were not informed in advanced of their charge.

After more than anticipated delays in the recruitment and administrative process, the 3-man mission was contracted. with Dr. William V. Jackson, Director of the International Library Information Center of the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate Library School of Library and Informational Science as Chief of Mission: Paxton Price, Director of the St. Louis Public Libraries to advise on public and school library systems: and María Teresa Sanz, Director of Libraries of the Catholic University in Santiago de Chile, responsible for the university and specialized library networks. However, the delays forced the postponement of the information collecting phase, and all three members arrived in Colombia during the first week of May. The Chief of the Library Development Program of the OAS, Mrs. Marietta Daniels Shepard, joined them for two weeks in mid-May, to facilitate some interviews and discussions.

II.1.3. (cont.)

Dr. Joseph Becker, of Becker & Hayes, Bethesda, Md., was contracted by COLCIENCIAS to advise on a national network of scientific information services, on the basis of two one-week trips and a third week to prepare the report and recommendations. Three university librarians were contracted by COLCIENCIAS to work for a period of four weeks with Dr. Becker. His two visits were to take place during the first and the fourth of the four-week period. Unfortunately, two of the three contracted (Hugo Galeano, Director of the Library of the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario of Tibaitatá, José Rafael Ortiz, Director of the Centro de Documentación of the Universidad Industrial de Santander in Bucaramanga, and Luis Eduardo Acosta, Director of Libraries of the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín) were among those proposed by ICFES to serve as counterparts for the OAS mission. Sra. Mercedes Benítez de Sharpless, Chief of the Section of Documentation of ICFES, therefore, was the only Colombian counterpart assigned to work full-time with the OAS Mission.

Briefing was done in Washington by the Library Development Program of the OAS and by the International Relations Office of the ALA for the U.S. members of the OAS Mission and for Dr. Becker, several dozen documents were brought together for their use, a tape was made of backgroud information for them and for their use with other Colombian librarians in Colombia, and an aide-mémoire prepared as a supplement to the tape. To the original draft of the aide-mémoire additions were made in Colombia as matters developed. For instance, a contract was proposed by COLCIENCIAS to another recently returned Colombian librarian, José Ignacio Bohórquez, to engage in research and assemble information which had not been gathered in advance, and he was asked to consult with the OAS Mission regarding the kind of information needed. One of the additional sections of the aide-mémoire dealt with items of information, analyses and evaluations needed by the OAS Mission.

Coordination of the deliberations of the two teams was made difficult by their physical separation, the OAS Mission primarily in Bogotá, and the Science Documentation Study Group near Medellín at the newly created Instituto de Integración Cultural, where much beauty and little information was available.

Four meetings of portions or all of the two missions were held, however: 1) in Bogotá before the arrival of Dr. Becker and Mrs. Shepard; 2) in Bogotá after their arrival, and with representatives of other Colombian institutions whose services were needed for planning purposes, such as in statistics, national planning and telecommunications; 3) in Medellín at the end of the first week of Dr. Becker's first visit: and 4) in Rio Negro at Hacienda Quirama, headquarters of the new institute. Tapes made for and by the OAS Mission were found to be useful in briefing the Rio Negro team of the activities of the OAS Mission in visiting Colombian institutions important to national library planning and funding agencies which may be of help in implementing the plan once devised. Of special interest was the tape of the interview of the OAS Mission with the newly elected President, Misrael Pastrana Borrero.

By the end of the third week of the OAS Mission, it became evident that the diversity of activity throughout Colombia with respect to books and libraries precluded the preparation of anything other than a preliminary outline of a national plan during this first phase, and that a second visit would have to be paid by all the three members of the team. Although Dr. Becker was to return

II.1.3. (cont.)
during the fourth week of the Río Negro "encuentro", it was conceded that there might be a delay in the collection of information required for a definitive plan, coordinated with the over-all plan for library and documentation services.

It was also apparent that coordination was necessary for planning purposes, to cover all the national movements in process, school libraries, library programs with literacy and adult education programs and the production of easy-to-read materials for them, public libraries giving services to schools and adult education programs, university libraries working in cooperation through ICFES, university and specialized libraries as a basis for a network of scientific documentation centers and services, inter-library cooperation among agricultural libraries at both the secondary school level and for study and research at the university and graduate level, and among medical libraries. During the OAS Mission the board of university rectors approved the expenditure of several million Colombian pesos to improve university library collections, of which 60% is to be spent by the university libraries themselves, 20% for national union catalog and lists of university libraries, 15% for a documentation center and services in ICFES, and 5% for training of university library personnel.

The need for coordination was found to be needed also among the funding agencies for technical and financial assistance: OAS, UN, UNESCO, UNICEF, Rockefeller, Ford, and Kellogg Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, AID, USIS and others.

Especially was it evident that more coordination and communication was needed at the local, i.e., national level. A national coordinating office could not be dispensed with, together with planning and operational offices within the various independent agencies. Coordination was also necessary with activities carried out by the private sector and by mixed public and private, national and local backing such as those of the Fondos Educativos Regionales. A device is needed to be developed to increase communication among the interested agencies. With the appointment of a new Minister of Education, he should be asked to appoint a national advisory commission on libraries. (A suggestion was made to the President-Elect that he appoint a task force "comité operativo" on libraries and books or a subcommittee to the Comité Operativo de Educación.)

Supportive services such as centralized procurement and processing, the compilation of union catalogs and lists, national acquisitions planning, improved bibliographic activities, planned training of library personnel, were found to be essential to make better use of facilities, collections, and staff.

Attention was found to be required for the solution of other problems related to library development, such as eliminating the existing barriers to the free importation and exportation of books and other educational materials, paper for book publication, eliminating the requirement for constant inventoring of collections which annually may cost a half or more the value of each book, and removing the fiscal responsibility now imposed on libraries for book losses.

II.1.3. (cont.)

Early in the work of the Mission it was evident to its members and to the one Colombian counterpart that it would be unable within the one-month period to complete the assignment given them to help the Colombian librarians and authorities draft a national plan for library and information services not only because of the factors mentioned above with respect to timing, the availability of a full counterpart team, and access to information analyses and reports, but because of the number of new developments in education, libraries, and scientific information planning since the presentation of the request for technical assistance the year before. Furthermore, the number of man-hours requested by Colombia originally were not supplied by the OAS in their entirety.

In the presentation of the interim report of the Mission entitled "Steps Toward the Future Development of a National Plan for Library Services in Colombia", the Mission called attention to the need for assembling further information and in-depth analyses of certain aspects of the situation to provide a solid factual basis for national planning. Some of this information was requested by the OAS in advance of the Mission, some items were found to be necessary during the early part of the mission and other needs became evident only in the preparation of the interim report. Not available to the Mission were three new reports on libraries in Colombia in general, one on agricultural libraries, and the one on recommendations for a scientific information network which was being prepared by Dr. Becker on the basis of the "encuentro" in Rio Negro at the time the Mission was in Colombia.

They first recommendation, therefore, was that the same 3-man team be sent back to Colombia for a second month to complete the assignment with assistance from the full Colombian counterpart team. In the sections entitled "Some Immediate Problems of Library Development in Colombia" and "Suggestions for Next Steps in Developing a National Plan for Library Services" the Mission proposed a number of steps to be taken in Colombia to further the process of national planning and to provide more adequate factual information for planning on both a quantitive and qualitative basis. Some of these steps can be taken by the independent agencies responsible for certain aspects of library and documentation development, some by the coordinating agency ICFES, some by the library association, and some by individual effort or contract.

The report of the Mission reflects not only the complexity of the library needs and problems of Colombia, but the relatively high level of progress which has been made in Colombia on its way toward providing more adequate library and documentation services to satisfy its developmental needs.

At present writing the request of Colombia for technical assistance for 1970-1971 has not been received by the OAS, so it is not possible to report whether a request has been made for a second phase return of the same team or for advisory services in relation to the development of school, public and university library networks, and centralized procurement services.

In the planning for outside assistance to Colombia the OAS has had the full cooperation of the Agency for International Development of the American Embassy in Colombia and of the American Library Association which serves as advisory and contracting agency for AID. In the near future experts will be invited through AID to assist Colombian librarians in key positions in the independent agencies of ICOLPE, and ICFES (responsible for primary, secondary, and university libraries) for specific purposes. For instance, assistance will

II.1.3. (cont.)
be given to INEM in the selection of materials for the 19 new comprehensive high school centers being established and for the centralized acquisition and processing of them.

The assistance of the OAS to Colombia in obtaining expert advice on the creation of a network of scientific documentation centers, described below, served as a basis for the second-phase planning of COLCIENCIAS, with the advisory services of Dr. Becker and the 3-man university library team of the "encuentro".

More specific recommendations will be expected from the findings of the OAS Mission in its second phase, if it is requested to return, and in the recommendations of the study group on scientific documentation. When a more definitive plan is drafted, it will have to be sold to the national agencies and international funding agences before the first steps can be taken to convert the national plan into a national program. The basic infraestructure was provided in the organization of the Ministry of Education before the planning phase began, and once the building blocks have been selected and conditioned they can be set in place.

II.2. Scientific and Technological Documentation and Information Services

The OAS program for the improvement of documentation and information services in the fields of science and technology is administered by the Department of Scientific Affairs of the General Secretariat under the regular budget and from the special voluntary contributions assigned to the Regional Program for Scientific and Technological Development. Technical assistance and training form a considerable part of this program whose operations differ somewhat from those in the field of education. Stress is being laid on the identification of the "centers of excellence" for training and research, and for activities in information and research.

II.2.1. Planning for Scientific Documentation Services in Colombia

Upon the request of the Government of Colombia to the OAS for technical assistance in the development of a scientific documentation network, presented by the Fondo Colombiano para Investigaciones Científicas (COLCIENCIAS), the OAS agreed to organize a Meeting of a Group of Experts on Scientific Documentation in order to bring together not only Latin American experienced documentalists but experts in documentation and information services as well as automation from the developed countries. With the assistance of the Library Development Program and the collaboration of ICFES in Colombia, the meeting was held in February 1970 with many original working papers prepared and many previous works in the field reprinted for the use of the twelve experts and their Colombian counterparts. Recommendations dealt with general concepts including the advantages of an informational and documentation network, elements recommended for a national system or network and alternative proposals for the structure with national and regional centers, and a plan for immediate action. The second phase of the development of the program is described above.

II.2.2. Grants for Documentation Centers and Training

A grant of $60.000 was made from 1969/70 funds to the Instituto Brasileiro de Bibliografía e Documentação for "Reinforcement for a Program of Training for Latin American Documentalists." Some of the funds made possible the participation of the country representatives to FID/CLA in the meeting of the Latin American Committee of the International Federation for Documentation, and in the Second Regional Congress on Documentation held in Rio de Janeiro in November 1969. Part of the grant went to reinforce the training of documentalists at a post-graduate level in a course entitled "1° Curso de Mestrado em Ciências da Informação" and through an agreement with the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. Four professors of Case Western Reserve University library school will be contracted in addition to the post-graduate engineering faculty of the Universidade Federal, and Fernando Monge, a specialist in communications and computers, now Director of the Library of the newly created Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical of Palmira, Colombia.

A grant of $32,500 went to the Centro de Documentación Científica del Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas to improve its reprographic services and to aid in holding an Inter-American seminar on automation of information. CENID in Chile received $30,000 to improve its services. A grant of $72,000 went to the Instituto de Integración Cultural in Rio Negro, Colombia, to develop a scientific documentation center.

II.2.3. Latin American Journals in the Field of Science and Technology

One activity approved by the Inter-American Science Committee (CICYT) and CIECC is for the improvement of scientific and technological journals in Latin America. A group of five experts were invited by the OAS to meet in February 1970 with two experts in scientific information and library development of the OAS to formulate recommendations for the promotion of Latin American scientific and technical journals. The report of the meeting (OEA/Ser.J/XI: CICYT/Doc. 30, Add. 3, Marzo 1970) consists of an introduction, an analysis of the present situation, policies recommended for adoption by the Regional Program of Scientific and Technological Development, and steps recommended to facilitate scientific and technological communication, in order of priority. Among the suggestions was the selection of outstanding journals for which a certain number of copies would be purchased to distribute to selected libraries, a comparative study of the articles by Latin American authors printed in international journals and those appearing in Latin American journals, the updating of the OAS Guía de las publicaciones periódicas científicas y técnicas de América Latina (1962), as top priority activities. Second priority was given to workshops for journal editors, the regular publication of a secondary journal of facsimiles of indexes and journal tables of contents as a type of "alerta científica", exploration of the possibilities of the publication of a scientific-technological index to Latin American works, and exploration of the possibilities of a reprint journal of articles of special usefulness to Latin America.

The first two proposals were accepted by CICYT and CIECC with some slight modifications in relation to timing of the various activities proposed, and included in the 1970-71 budget. The others were postponed to be executed in the future.

II.2.4. Information Services Related to Technological Transfer

The results of a conference on Latin American development dealing with technological transfer held in 1969, which have come to be known as the "Consenso de Viña del Mar" (Chile), were reviewed by a special meeting of the IA ECOSOC in February 1970 and submitted to the special meeting of the new Inter-American Council on Education, Science and Culture at its April 1970 meeting. The United States Delegation offered to finance a training program for science information specialists with a grant of $300,000 for training programs at different levels, and to provide other funds for approved projects in the field.

A joint memorandum on training needs for information for technological transfer was prepared by the Library Development Program and the Unit of Information and Publications of the Science Department proposing that a training program should include opportunities for advanced academic study as well as for professional study in the United States, and the dispatch of North American experts to Latin America for training purposes. Training should be at various levels including that of scientists to be trained for information services, librarians to be given special training in information services and automation, and the orientation of "prime movers" in the relationship between the communication of information and the use of information and documentation services with the development of technological transfer.

II. 3. The OAS and Agricultural Librarians and Documentation

From the early years of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, the Scientific Exchange Service (SIC) and the Orton Memorial Library have taken a lead in the improvement of agricultural libraries and documentation in Latin America. With additional funds from Rockefeller Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, AID, and the Food and Agriculture Organization programs have been carried out in Turrialba for the training of agricultural librarians, for providing secretariat services for the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists (IAALD), for the planning and development of an Inter-American Program for the Development of Agricultural Libraries (IICA/PIDBA) and for the development of a network of key agricultural libraries throughout Latin America. An advisory committee to PIDBA is called upon occasions to meet in "mesa redonda" to advise the Institute on activities it should carry on. A few of the recent activities follow.

The III Mesa Redonda, Programa Interamericano de Desarrollo de Bibliotecas Agrícolas (IICA/PIDBA) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 19-21, 1969, sponsored by the Regional Office of IICA for the Zona Sur and the Centro de Ensino e Investigação and Regional Offices of the Northern Zone and the Andean Zone. The principal topics treated were the use of agricultural libraries, the training of librarians and documentalists for agricultural materials, production of works in the agricultural sciencies, planning for networks of agricultural information services in Latin America, and the automation of libraries and informational services in agriculture. A committee was formed to complete a listing of computer programs being carried out in Latin America in libraries and bibliographic centers. The next meeting is scheduled for Mayaguez, Puerto Rico in 1971.

II.3. (cont.)

An annotated worldwide bibliography of agricultural libraries and documentation has been undertaken by Hugo Cáceres of the Library and Documentation Service of IICA in Turrialba with the hope that it will be published late in 1970.

Abner Vicentini of Brazil arrived in Turrialba on March 6, 1970, on behalf of FAO, to do a study of the possibilities of creating a Regional Center of Agricultural Documentation for Latin America with headquarters at Turrialba.

In response to a recommendation of the 1968 AIBDA meeting in Bogotá, IICA/PIBDA and AIBDA are expected to collaborate in the study of the aplication of the three principal classification systems in selected general university and agricultural libraries in Latin America. The Committee of AIBDA on the Study of Classification Systems has been invited to meet in Turrialba with the members of the study team to be appointed by the OAS Library Development Program mentioned above.

II.4. The OAS and Medical Libraries and Textbooks

The Pan American Health Organization, (PAHO) regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO), has concerned itself in recent years with library-related activities in support of teaching and research in the biomedical field, especially with respect to the training of medical librarians, the creation and maintenance of regional medical libraries, and to the provision of low-cost textbooks for medical school students.

For the sixth year PAHO has supported special semester-long courses for medical librarians at the Inter-American Library School in Colombia, with some 18 students in attendance from 8 countries of Latin America in 1970.

Two reports presented to the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization at its XIX Reunión in Washington, D.C., September-October 1969, are concerned with the Regional Library of Medicine in São Paulo, Brazil, and with the medical textbook program of PAHO: Biblioteca Regional de Medicina (CD/19/8, Corr., 1969), and Financiamiento del programa de libros de texto para estudiantes de medicina: Fundación Panamericana de la Salud y Educación (CD/19/16, Add., 1969).

For the Meeting of Experts on Scientific Documentation in Colombia, in Bogotá, in February 1970, Dr. Amador Neghme, Director of the Regional Medical Library in São Paulo, prepared a working paper entitled Proyecto para una red de comunicaciones biomédicas internacional (UP/P/ReGrExDoCi/Doc. 7, 1970).

III. Potentials for Collaboration in the Improvement of Scientific Documentation and Documentation Services in Latin America

Perhaps because of the absence of a well-development library heritage in Latin America, the full potential of the OAS for collaboration in the improvement of facilities for making scientific and technological information more readily accessible to the scientists, students, governmental authorities, and the citizenry in general has never really been tested on either a national basis or on an regional basis. Governmental approved requests for technical cooperation for the development of documentation centers and for the creation of national programs of scientific documentation have not come to the OAS from the institutions and governements of Latin America. Within the Secretariat, however, there has been full collaboration among the staff of the Library Development Program, Scientific Affairs, and Technical Cooperation in the mutual exchange of information and sharing of advice for technical assistance programs and for the consideration of fellowships for advanced study in the field of scientific documentation and for the preparation of documentalists and information scientists.

The new Regional Programs of Educational and Scientific and Technological Development, with considerably expanded funding, provide additional means of assisting the member states in planning and developing national systems of scientific documentation as well as for increased regional cooperation. The additional funds offered by the Government of the United States will make possible the early training of personnel for the transmission of scientific and technological information.

Before discussing in detail the potential of the OAS in the improvement of scientific documentation services in Latin America, it may be well to clarify some semantical problems. The first refers to "information" and "documentation", and the second to "cooperation" and what can or might be done on a regional basis or with the help of international organizations.

For the purposes of this paper it is probably better to separate the concept of "information itself" from the development of all the techniques to inform i.e. "information science" or the technology of information. "Information itself" can be understood as that which should be informed, the manner in which it should be transmitted, the level of the information and the recipient persons or institutions. On the other hand, the "technology of information" basically would have to do with the means used to transmit information. Such means could be manual, mechanical or electronic, and may cover also data analysis and processing and the application of systems analysis in the planning and execution of the work.

III. (cont.)

We believe in the OAS that the fundamental problem in Latin America is concerned with the technology of scientific and technical information, especially in connection with the development and improvement of manual methods (documentation) with extension into the mechanical and electronic means (computing or automation). In this manner, an accelerated improvement of the institutionalized means of documentation (libraries and documentation and/or information centers) would be achieved and the sources of information would be much better utilized.

The reasons for insufficient development in Latin America in the fields mentioned are many and varied. However, there is one common to all the countries, even to those which have achieved better results: the lack of personnel with adequate professional background and training. It is for this reason that we believe that in the first stage of a program efforts should be concentrated in the preparation and specialization of scientific documentalists. Considering the fact that documentation cannot be separated from the library, the problems of preparing librarians and of organizing libraries and their technical services is another serious defect of the Latin American information chain that should be taken into account in all development projects in the field of documentation for that region.

In considering the training programs which might be carried out with the special funds offered by the Government of the United States, the OAS has proposed informally to collaborate with AID in planning and carrying out a training program to meet the various levels of personnel needs of Latin America in scientific documentation.

It has been suggested that an adequate program designed to meet Latin American needs should contain three basic elements:

1. Opportunities for academic formation and specialization in the United States.

2. Opportunities for professional training in the United States.

3. North American expert missions to Latin America.

A worthwhile project could consist of offering fellowships for one or two years' duration to a selected group of Latin American librarians and documentalists specialized in science and scientists interested in rendering services in the field of documentation, to take academic courses in accredited library, documentation and information schools in the United States. The academic degree to start with could be the "master's degree".

III. (cont.)
Such academic training should include research and practical training in documentation centers located in the area influenced by the particular university. In these documentation centers the students would develop work involving practical training, research and thesis preparation, under the direction of the university responsible for the training.

For persons and professionals already experienced in the field of documentation but who cannot, because of previous training or personal commitments, or for matters of convenience, participate in academic courses for determined periods of time with fixed dates, programs of work shoud be prepared for periods of three, six or more months, depending on the circumstances of the particular case, in North American documentation centers. The objectives could be diverse: knowledge and analysis of the technical, administrative and financial structures of the centers in order to study what is applicable to each particular country; learning and proficiency in new techniques; research work; familiarization with modern equipment, etc. Many centers could serve for this purpose, some to handle the general aspects, others for specializations and some others for technical work. The latter ones are very important for Latin America where technical documentation and technical information constitute one of the least developed fields in all chain of transference, adapatation and innovation pertaining to technologies.

The two measures discussed above could be effectively complemented by sending at the same time to Latin American countries, North American experts in documentation for periods for three months or more. These experts could collaborate "in situ" with appropriate authorities by advising on matters such as the programming of centers of documentation where they are non-existent, installation of new centers, expansion of activities of existing centers, or by carrying out or directing research or studies.

The coordinated application of these three types of measures would represent an effective assistance which at present would be most fruitful in Latin America in a few years. It would also represent a North American effort that would place the facilities that the country can offer for this type of activity at the service of the countries South of the Border.

The role which the OAS can play in assisting individual countries to develop their own scientific documentation services has been demonstrated by the meeting of experts held in Bogotá in February 1970 to advise the Colombian Government on the development of a network of scientific information centers. Recommendations of this meeting are in the hands of the Colombian Government and copies may be procured from the OAS. The full report and working papers will soon be issued by ICFES.

The recommendations of the meeting of experts on scientific and technical journals held by the OAS in February 1970 in Caracas were concerned especially with the development of the secondary journals needed for bibliographical control of the scientific publications of Latin American scientists. It is hoped that the OAS can obtain the collaboration of some of the outstanding documentation centers and institutions of Latin America in carrying out these recommendations.

III. (cont.)

Much has been said in the past about what can be done by "collaboration," "cooperation," and "coordination" in the improvement of library and documentation fields in Latin America, and about the role of international organizations and the avoidance of duplication of efforts. Let us pause for a moment to consider the meanings of the words. The Royal Academy dictionary gives these definitions:

> Colaborar. (Del lat. collaborāre; de cum, con, y laborare, trabajar.) intr. Trabajar con otra u otras personas, especialmente en obras de ingenio.
>
> Cooperar. (Del lat. cooperāri; de cum, con, y operāri, trabajar.) intr. Obrar juntamente con otro u otras para un mismo fin.
>
> Coordinar. (Del lat. co, por cum, con, y ordināre, ordenar.) tr. Disponer cosas metódicamente.

In the case of "collaboration" and "cooperation" there is an implication that two or more persons or entities are working, either separately or together for the same objective. "Coordination" implies that the efforts of all are arranged systematically, presumably for the maximum benefit. The development of union catalogs of scientific journals from a local, regional, national or international point of view and the role of each agency in the process might be discussed on the basis of each of these terms.

Library development in the standardization of techniques and in the provision of services has depended to a very great extent on "cooperation" among libraries and librarians. In no country of the world has a high level of library and documentation services been achieved without an equally high level of cooperation among the institutions rendering such service. The tools of the trade are the results of cooperation, notwithstanding the excellent works achieved by individuals working alone, or with the collaboration of others.

International organizations have had it within their power to assist or cooperate with individual countries and individual libraries in many programs, in the development of national plans, in providing technical assistance to individual countries and their institutions, in holding meetings of a technical nature, and in the development of tools required for the organization of libraries.

The "coordination" of efforts in library development is more difficult to achieve on an international scale because of the differing and ever-changing policies and practices of those agencies operating in the international sphere. Sometimes the policies and practices overlap, sometimes they can be made to dovetail especially if there is a clear knowledge and understanding of the scope and nature of the activities which each organization can support. A case in point is the collaboration between AID and the OAS in providing technical assistance to Colombia, explained earlier.

Both UNESCO and the OAS have library development programs which cover school libraries through national networks for scientific information, as well as the training of librarians and documentalists. A recent meeting of a Comisión Mixta UNESCO-OEA conceded that, although constant exchange of information on programs in national planning and training is required, in the operational field the need is so great in the member states for the organization of library services that there is little possibility of duplication of efforts. On the

III. (cont.)
other hand, it was recommended that the two organizations collaborate in holding a regional conference on the free circulation of scientific and cultural materials.

It would be difficult to determine the extent to which the recommendations of the OAS Round Table on International Cooperation for Library and Informational Services in Latin America (Washington, 1965) have contributed to the coordination of library programs of organizations, agencies, and associations operating in Latin America. Most of the recommendations dealt with activities which were needed to be carried out for the benefit of all libraries and all countries, whereas most of the activities of international organizations, foundations, and funding agencies, have been concerned with assistance to specific countries or specific institutions. Although not included as one of the recommendations of the Round Table, it was agreed at that time that the OAS make no further effort to organize a regional library association, but strive to achieve greater coordination of the programs of FID and IFLA and their Latin American committees in the hope of creating a single secretariat which might serve the interests of both organizations until such a time as the two organization themselves might join together.

The degree to which the OAS will be able to collaborate in the improvement of documentation services will depend to a considerable extent in the future on the degree to which the national planning offices, the ministries of education, and the representative scientific agency of each country is convinced of the need for outside assistance in the development of national and regional documentation and library services. This conviction will be evidenced not only in the requests it makes for technical assistance and fellowships for national programs, but in the decisions and evaluations of the members of the Inter-American Committee on Education, the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology, and finally of the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture. The quantity of funds available for new multinational programs, for "acciones de refuerzo", for technical studies and meetings will depend also on the importance conceded by the member states to these new programs.

The OAS stands ready to help in the improvement of scientific and technical publications, in their bibliographic control, in the use of advanced technology for more rapid dissemination and communication of scientific and technological information, in the improvement of national networks or centers of scientific documentation, in organizational support for cooperative efforts, and in the training of personnel for documentation services.